

daily occupation to see God, discourse with Him, enjoy His company and live in Him. Accordingly, from this initial mutual attachment, grows communion, then *intcr-communion*, and then absorption. This immersion, this absorption *ol* the *Bjzakta* in the ocean of God's all-pervasiveness, is the characteristic of *Bhakti* rapture, a characteristic which we see in advanced stages of spiritual culture.

In the earlier stages of progress in the attachment to God, however, the more the *bhakta* grows in spiritual fervour, the deeper becomes the consciousness of his utter helplessness, imperfection, his *uselessness, worthlessness* and even baseness and the sense of dependence on God at every step in the march of life. He feels that he has wasted all his energies, all God* given opportunities for spiritual advancement in a foolish night after the misty meteors of the world, coolly passing by those things which concern him for ever. He feels that although God is *Sarvantaryami* (immanent in all) and *sarvasaksht* (the All-seeing- Witness); He is not *tiansparently* manifest to him. It -is the scales in his *eyeo*, ^ it is the mist in his mind-, it is *th^* darkness in -his heart, it is the sin in his soul that has *conceafed*: God and

His* Love,

He feels that his miserable, wretched, sinful,
ungrateful soul

» ran away from God, sought lowly
pleasures, indulged in
base gratifications, pursued sinful and brutish
enjoyments.

Sin-stricken, heavy-hearted, feeling the enormity
of his

wickedness, smarting under a keen sense of his
own unworthi-

ness, smitten with indescribable remorse,,
tasting the bitter

fruits of his own iniquity, the *bhakia* falteringly
approaches

the Throne of God'r Holiness and Mercy and
fervently prays :

*" Cleanse me, purify me, chastise me, pass me through any
purgatory,
draw me through any fire^ put me to any ordeal, as ihou dost this, may
my
soul vise neater to thee This soul, self-abandoned, comes back to Thee
Pity, take it bask Make me Thy own, absolutely Thy own. I nome
* fo Thee to be faheii in, Ifnot a^ a soil, then as a ^lave ; zfnnot as
a penitent,
then a^ a prodigal. Cast w fhzs unholy ziretch, a iay of Thy Holiness
wid yeswm him w^o. Thy- sacred and JLov ing A rms."*